

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 04057 301616Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 SY-05 AID-05 HA-05 MCT-02 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 /082 W

-----021215 301623Z /44

O R 301505Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7125
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4057

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MILI,NU
SUBJECT: ALLEGED BOMBING OF MATAGALPA

REF: MANAGUA 4056

1. DURING CALL OF DCM AND RICHARD FEINBERG OF S/P ON
MAJOR ANASTASIO (TACHITO) SOMOZA, THEY WERE TOLD THAT
WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT THE NICARGUAN AIR FORCE WAS
"BOMBING MATAGALPA" ARE UNTRUE. ACCORDING TO TACHITO,
THERE WERE ARMED INSURGENTS ON A HILL NEAR BUT OUTSIDE
POPULATION AREA OF MATAGALPA. AIR FORCE PLANES WERE SENT AT
THE REQUEST OF THE LOCAL GUARDIA NACIONAL COMMANDER. HE SAID
ONE PLANE FIRED "A COUPLE OF ROCKETS" AT THE INSURGENTS ON THE
HILL WHICH IS PARTLY WOODED AND PARTLY PASTURELAND.

2. MAJOR SOMOZA SAID THAT THE FIGHTING TAKING PLACE IN
MATAGALPA IS BETWEEN THE GUARDIA AND INSURGENT GROUPS,
LARGELY COMPOSED OF TEENAGERS ARMED WITH CONTACT BOMBS,
RIFLES, SHOTGUNS AND PISTOLS. THEY WERE AUGMENTING
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 04057 301616Z

THEIR ARMS, HE SAID, BY GOING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE
THREATENING THE OCCUPANTS AND DEMANDING THAT THEY TURN
OVER ANY WEAPONS THEY MAY HAVE.

3. HE SAID THAT THE GUARDIA FORCES IN MATAGALPA, AS
WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, ARE UNDER STRICT
ORDERS NOT TO FIRE UNLESS FIRED UPON, BUT EVEN THEN

ONLY TO FIRE AT PEOPLE THEY WERE SURE WERE FIRING
AT THEM.

4. VARIETY OF PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THERE MAY
BE UP TO FIVE PEOPLE DEAD AND ABOUT 25 PEOPLE WOUNDED
AS A RESULT OF THE STREET FIGHTING IN MATAGALPA.
GUARDIA NACIONAL REINFORCEMENTS REPORTEDLY HAVE ARRIVED AT
THE CITY.

5. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, TACHITO WOULD HAVE REASON TO
DOWNPLAY THE PLETHORA OF ANTI-GN RUMORS EMANATING OUT
OF MATAGALPA AND THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.
HOWEVER, WE GIVE SOME CREDENCE TO HIS REPORT AND WILL
CONTINUE TO FOLLOW UP THROUGH OTHER SOURCES.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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